

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02664 030858Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OPR-02
USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05 IO-13 ACDA-07
ORM-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 /121 W
-----030902Z 050663 /10

P R 030636Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4221

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 259

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION MAY 27-JUNE 2

REF: BEIRUT 2562 (DTG 261503Z MAY 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK A BOMB EXPLODED IN WEST BEIRUT.
ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUED IN SOUTH. CHRISTIAN AND
SHIA FAMILIES EXCHANGED GUNFIRE IN NORTHERN TOWN OF AQURAH.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02664 030858Z

MUSLIM OFFICERS WERE NAMED TO SEVERAL KEY ARMY POSTS.
CHRISTIANS HELD MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN ZAHLE. CAMILLE CHAMOUN
VISITED DAMASCUS. A PROMINENT LEBANESE BANKER SAID ARAB
AID WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING. END SUMMARY.

2. EXPLOSION IN HAMRA.

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WENT OFF IN PARKED CAR ON HAMRA STREET, NEAR SPORTING GOODS STORE IN WEST BEIRUT, DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS JUNE 2. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. MOTIVE AND PERPATRATORS REMAIN UNKNOWN BUT OTHER BRANCHES OF THIS STORE HAVE BEEN BOMBED PREVIOUSLY.

3. FIGHTING IN SOUTH.

ARTILLERY EXCHANGES BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH CONTINUED. PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY Wafa JUNE 1 CLAIMED THAT BOMBARDMENTS HAD ESCALATED IN RECENT DAYS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST VILLAGES AND PALESTINIAN CAMPS NEAR TAIBE. ACCORDING TO ARAB WORLD, SPOKESMAN FOR PFLT ANNOUNCED JUNE 1 THAT ISRAELIS HAD OCCUPIED VILLAGES OF KAfr SHUBA AND KAfr HAMAM IN ARQUB WITH 1000 MEN. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARMY INTELLIGENCE SOURCE, SMALL GROUP OF ISRAELI MILITARY ENTERED KAfr SHUBA MORNING OF JUNE 1 TO HOLD MEETING WITH VILLAGERS AND INVITED THEM TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL. THERE REPORTEDLY WAS NO FIGHTING, AND ISRAELIS WITHDREW AFTER MEETING.

4. SHOOTING IN AQURAH.

ON MAY 31 CHRISTIAN AND SHIA FAMILIES EXCHANGED GUNFIRE IN NORTHERN TOWN OF AQURAH. REPORTEDLY EACH SIDE SUFFERED ABOUT SIX CASUALTIES. ALTHOUGH INCIDENT STEMMED FROM DISPUTE OVER LAND RIGHTS RATHER THAN POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, KFUR FRONT LEADERS AT FIRST FEARED THAT KATAEB TRAINING CAMPS, ONLY ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS AWAY IN LAQLUQ, WOULD BECOME INVOLVED, AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02664 030858Z

THAT SYRIAN TROPPS MIGHT USE INCIDENT AS PRETEXT TO MOVE INTO AREA WHERE THEY HAD NOT YET BEEN POSTED. HOWEVER, SHOOTING STOPPED AND APPARENT CALM RETURNED FOLLOWING DAY.

5. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF MUSLIM OFFICERS.

MUSLIM OFFICERS WERE NAMED TO SEVERAL KEY POSITIONS AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN YARZE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE CONFESSIONAL SEGREGATION OCCURRED IN 1976. APPOINTMENTS INCLUDED DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, THE G-3 (OPERATIONS), THE G-5 (PRESS AND INFORMATION), AS WELL AS 25 OTHER JUNIOR OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS TO SERVE ON HEADQUARTERS STAFF. AT SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO HIGHLY PLACED DATT SOURCE, SYRIAN ARMY HAS DELIVERED TO ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY RESIGNATIONS OF THREE TOP OFFICERS OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY: COLONEL YOUSEF MANSOUR, MAJOR AHMED AHDAM, AND MAJOR GHOSN GATAINI.

6. MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN ZAHLE.

A MEMORIAL CEREMONY, INCLUDING PARADE OF ARMED KFUR FRONT MILITIA, WAS HELD IN ZAHLE MAY 28 TO COMMEMORATE CHRISTIANS KILLED DURING FIGHTING OF LAST TWO YEARS. KFUR FRONT PERSONALITIES MUSA PRINCE, SAID AKL, AND GEORGE ADWAN ATTENDED, AND DR. CHARLES MALIK DELIVERED KEYNOTE SPEECH.

7. CHAMOONS TO DAMASCUS.

CAMILLE AND DANY CHAMOUN VISITED DAMASCUS JUNE 2 FOR TALKS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARMY SOURCES, CHAMOONS HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED ASSASSINATION THREATS AND WERE THEREFORE ACCOMPANIED BY LEBANESE SOLDIERS ACTING AS BODYGUARDS. MEANWHILE, WALID JUNBLATT WENT TO IRAQ JUNE 1 AS PART OF ARAB TOUR WHICH BEGAN MAY 23.

8. BANKER SAYS ARAB AID NOT FORTHCOMING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 02664 030858Z

IN INTERVIEW WITH RIGHT-WING DAILY AL ANWAR MAY 30, PROMINENT LEBANESE BANKER JOSEPH JAJA PREDICTED ARAB AID TO LEBANON WOULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING. HOWEVER, HE ESTIMATED BANKS IN LEBANON HAD LL 1.8 BILLION IN RESERVES AND SURPLUS LIQUIDITY WHICH GOL COULD USE FOR RECONSTRUCTION (SEE BEIRUT 2653).
BUDEIT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT02664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0199
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770695/aaaadfdk.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ade64086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 2562
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2295708
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION MAY 27-JUNE 2
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ade64086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009